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Message Text

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64
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
---------- 024611
R 191130Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3470

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 11405

EXDIS

SECSTATE PASS NSC, SECDEF, CJCS, CIA, CINCPAC,
COMUSSAG, BANGKOK, SAIGON, PARIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, MILI, CB
SUBJECT: KENG VANNSAK PROPOSES A MILITARY GOVERNMENT

1. KENG VANNSAK, AN INTELLIGENT, DISAFFECED LON
NOL IDEOLOGUE NOW SERVING AS HEAD OF THE KHMER
UNESCO DELEGATION, CAME IN TODAY TO PROMOTE A
QTE COALITION OF MILITARY, INTELLECTUALS, AND
POLITICAL GROUPINGS UNQTE AS THE ANSWER TO
CAMBODIA'S NEED FOR STRONG GOVERNMENT. VANNSAK'S
BILL OF PARTICULARS WOULD INCLUDE:
(A) KICKING LON NOL UPSTAIRS TO SOME VAGUE
QTE SUPREME MAGISTRATURE UNQTE;
(B) BYPASSING ALL CONSTITUTED PARTIES;
(C) FORMING A GOVERNMENT TO CONSIST OF THE FANK
(VANNSAK CLAIMED TO HAVE A COMMITMENT FROM
FANK C IN C MAJGEN SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ TO
QTE MARCH WITH YOU TO THE END UNQTE),
INTELLECTUALS (VANNSAK HIMSELF), ETHCNICS (CHAM
LEADER BRIGGEN LES KOSSEM WOULD BRING HIS
GROUP IN; VANNSAK HAD CONTACTED KHMER KROM
LEADERS DEPUTY THACH TOAN, FINANCE SECRETARY
GERNERAL KIM NGUON TRACH AND LON NOL PROTEGE
THACH CHIA TO FORM A GROUP), AND NOTABLES
(FORMER LON NOL ADVISOR LAAU POUNPA WOULD
SECRET

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FORM A GROUP).

2. I TOLD VANNSAK THAT HIS PROPOSAL IS NOT RPT NOT
IN CAMBODIA'S INTEREST. THE ARMY DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH

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TALENT TO DO ITS JOB, LET ALONE RUN THE COUNTRY; THERE
IS PROFOUND DISTRUST AMONG CIVILIANS AND THE POPULATION
AT LARGE FOR THE ARMY; AND A MILITARY TAKEOVER HERE
WOULD RUIN US PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR
CAMBODIA, AND PERHAPS THAT OF CAMBODIA'S ASIAN FRIENDS
AS WELL.

3. I ADDED THAT VANNSAK MUST TAKE PARTICULAR CARE
NOT TO JEOPARIDZE SOSTHENE, IN WHOM WE HAVE GREAT
CONFIDENCE AS FANK CINC. LOOSE PALAVERING ABOUT
MILITARY GOVERNMENTS HAS ALREADY DAMAGED SOSTHENE, AND
THIS IDEA COULD HURT HIM WORSE.

4. VANNSAK, WHO RETURNS TO PARIS THIS AFTERNOON,
SAID HE WOULD TAKE NO ACTION WITHOUT CONTACTING US.

5. COMMENT: PETTY PLOTTING OF THIS SORT IS THE
BANE OF CAMBODIA. JUST SERIOUS ENOUGH TO GET PEOPLE
INTO TROUBLE, IT IS NEVER SERIOUS ENOUGH TO DEVELOP
A FORMATION THAT CAN REALLY RUN THE COUNTRY.
ENDERS

NOTE BY OCT: PHNOM PENH 11305 NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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